FARM LABOR NEWS

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Terror In Cotton Fields

Here's the cotton-picking machine that will do the work of 100 men, women and children. This machine is headed our way. It can do a lot of good if its handled right. But it can bring a lot of hardship on families that are run off the land—if they don't have jobs to go to.

Rust's Cotton Picker Now In Big Production

A cotton picking machine which does as much work as 100 field hands is now ready for mass production in the Allis Chalmers farm equipment plants. The most successful of several mechanical cotton pickers was invented by John D. Rust who now makes his home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nearly 20 years ago, John Rust was walking through a Texas cotton field. He was thinking about a machine to do the back breaking work of men, women, and children, who labor in the southern cotton fields. Many men had tried to make a cotton picker and had failed. The dew was heavy that morning and John Rust noted that when a boll was picked, the cotton clung to his fingers. The principle of the future Rust Cotton Picker was discovered. A smooth round spindle, dampened with water to pull the cotton out of the boll, proved to be the answer. The government granted John Rust a patent and the first crude machine was made by hand in the year 1929. It was to be drawn by mules. The cotton picker worked but it was not perfect. By 1934, the Rust machine, driven by a tractor was picking cotton in Arkansas and Mississippi. It was tried out at the government experiment station in Stoneville, Miss., in 1936 and was pronounced successful. The machines were manufactured and were used each year. John and his brother Mack, a mechanical engineer, built their own plant in Memphis to produce the machines. A few were sold. One was bought by the Russian government and still another was sold in South America. The big cotton planters of the southern states were not interested. They could hire men, women, and children, to pick cotton at 75¢ or a dollar a day. They saw no need to invest thousands of dollars in a machine. So John Rust bided his time, continuing to improve his machine.

The Allis Chalmers Farm Equipment Co. bought the right to manufacture the machine in 1944. Streamlined models were made and put in use in 1945. They picked 10 bales of cotton in 8 hours, 15,000 pounds of lint and seed. The average cotton picker will pick 150 pounds a day. At that rate, 100 workers would be required to pick as much as the machine.

John Rust is an inventor who is not interested in getting rich. All of the patent rights and income from royalties on the sale of the machines have been turned over to the World Foundation for the purpose of supporting all forms of social progress. The World Foundation is interested in establishing a world government to prevent future wars. It is interested in aiding unions to secure for the individual a greater share of the abundant life made possible by a machine age.

In addition to the Rust cotton picking machine being manufactured by Allis Chalmers, the International Harvester Co. has a very successful machine. The John Deere Co is experimenting with a cotton picker. It is estimated that 200,000 cotton picking machines may be sold in the South during the next 5 to 10 years. The problem of cotton production will be solved but the problem of human victims of mechanized farming will become the challenge of tomorrow.

Rankin Sticks Foot In Mouth

Congressman John Rankin of Mississippi was very much surprised recently when he made a speech in the House of Representatives. Another Congressman, Charles Savage of Washington, congratulated Mr. Rankin for giving "one of the best arguments in favor of union organization I have ever heard."

While doing his daily dozen on baiting labor, Rankin denounced organized labor's demands for a wage increase and compared the present earnings of industrial workers with the cotton farmers of Mississippi. Many of them Rankin said, earned a net of as little as 1 cent an hour.

Congressman Savage said this was evidence not that industrial workers were over paid but that farm labor is grossly underpaid. He declared that the shockingly low earnings of cotton pickers proved they need unions. "The industrial worker receives higher pay because he is organized," Mr. Savage said.

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Writer Says Poll Tax Will Be Thrown Out

W. D. Sisson, Washington correspondent for the Commercial Appeal of Memphis, states that the southern senators are not hopeful about preventing a vote to repeal the poll tax laws. He quotes an unnamed politician as saying, "We probably can win one more filibuster against the Anti-Poll Tax Bill but my prediction is that it will be a law before the 1948 presidential election, despite all we can do to fight it."

Union President Warns Planters Want Wages Cut

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, has informed Chester Bowles, Director of Wage Stabilization, that Mississippi delta planters are plotting to use the power of the U. S. government to impose a cut in wages paid cotton choppers this spring.

In a letter to Mr. Bowles, Mitchell said that a secret meeting was held by large plantation owners in Mississippi, February 12th. for the purpose of planning to cut wages paid to cotton choppers, and added, "according to our information, officials of the USDA Wage Stabilization Board were in attendance."

Pointing out that USDA Bureau of Agricultural Economics report of June, 1945 showed wages paid farm labor in Mississippi were $2.50 a day, Mitchell said: "We do not believe that you, the responsible official of the United States government, will be a party to a plot to impose lower standards of living on the lowest paid workers in the country."

Mitchell said the ceiling imposed on cotton pickers in Mississippi and Arkansas last fall resulted in pickers refusing to work, and that an estimated 40 per cent of the cotton crop is still in the fields.

"We believe this proposal to impose wage ceilings on farm laborers engaged in chopping cotton is unfair, unnecessary, and illegal."

He charged that the procedure used to set wage ceilings by the Department of Agriculture "violates every tradition of American democracy" because, he said, only cotton producers are permitted to vote and farm laborers, whose wages are being cut, have no right to take part in the referendums.

"Sharecroppers, who technically were classed as producers, but who in reality are hired laborers, were herded to the polls and told to vote the bosses' way," he wrote. "Less than 20 per cent of the qualified producers took part in the referendum."

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Ceiling On Picking Price Okeh–Says He

Col. Wilson R. Buie, Director of Labor for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has replied to our open letter to Secretary Anderson demanding that wage ceilings be revoked on cotton picking.

Buie denies that failure to harvest the 1945 cotton crop was due to the operation of wage ceilings. He says that bad weather was solely responsible for 40% of the crop still being in the fields.

Buie also says that the State Wage Boards in Arkansas and Mississippi have not asked for the wage ceilings to be lifted. The wage boards are composed of big plantation owners with no representation for farm labor.

Vice President Writes Of Good Work Done By Locals He Visited

By F. R. BETTON

During the month, I visited the Forrest City Local. Roy Clay and his wife, Earther, are among the leaders of the Union in that area. Millard Rodgers is President of the Local. Henry Jackson, formerly of Whitmore, now lives in Forrest City. The Local has a meeting place now. A nice hall which is owned by a friend of the Union is being used.

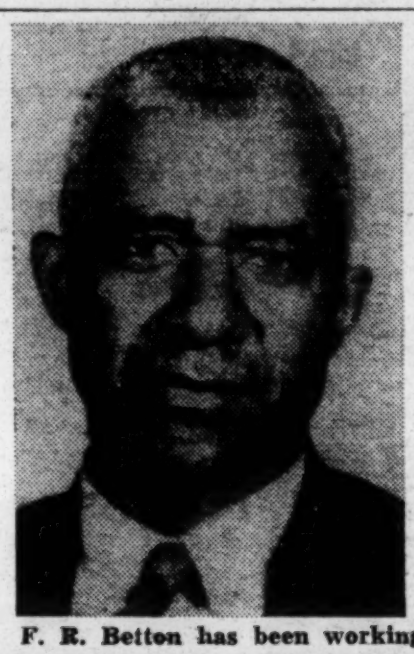
S. L. Brooks of Shady Grove Local is planning a meeting for me soon. I was unable to see George Gaines at Madison.

The Carraway Local at Cotton Plant has 30 families paid up for 1946. The District Council met the first Saturday in February. J. W. Stewart was elected President; Anderson Johnson of Hunter, Vice President; and George Stith was re-elected Secretary. J. T. Clark of Augusta was elected District Organizer. The next meeting of the District Council will be held March 2nd. at the Academy in Cotton Plant.

I attended the recent meeting of the Bishop's Council in Little Rock. Several of the Bishops pledged their support to the work of our Union. They adopted a resolution asking the churches to cooperate in building better race relations. A question discussed was whether the church would follow the labor unions in getting this job done.

On February 21, I went to Gould to meet with Mr. L. J. Washington of the Farm Credit Administration from Kansas City. About 80 farmers met at the church that afternoon to get information about government loans and about getting feed and seed loans for making crops. Mr. Espey of the AAA office in Little Rock, attended the meeting and spoke about crop insurance.

The same night, a big Union meeting was held. Over 300 people turned out to hear Rev. Clayton and me. Seven new families joined. The Cooperative Store in Gould is doing $50 to $100 a week business. The Cooperative Store is managed by Mrs. Carrie Dilworth. Some of the members do not yet understand why they should buy in their own store.



F. R. Betton has been working with many locals in Missouri this month. In the story below he tells about some of the good work being done by different locals.

Next month, I am to spend some time in southeast Missouri where a big organizing drive is getting underway.

Boom And Bust Boys Boosting Land Price

Washington, D. C.—Farm land prices are 52 per cent above the prewar level, are still going up, and may pass the peak to which speculators boosted them after the First World War, the Department of Agriculture reported this week.

The report said many farms were sold last year by people who had owned them only a short time and 37 per cent of the farms were bought by people who did not intend to do any farming.

In short, that farm land speculators are busy again. The present boom may be followed by a "Bust" like the one which ruined millions of farmers in the 1920's.

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When you finish reading your Farm Labor News pass it on to a friend. Let him know what the Union is doing. Let him see how the Union fights the battle for him.

LABOR WANTED

Men Or Women

Contracts for recruiting and transporting workers to jobs this spring and summer are now being made.

Good workers are needed for seasonal jobs in canneries and on farms out of the South, during the spring and summer months when there is little to do on cotton farms.

Members of the Union 18 years of age and not over 60, if in good health, will be considered for these jobs.

The Union will arrange for transportation, see that sanitary housing is provided on the job. Union wage rates are paid.

Members of the Union who want to go out on a job should register now by filling out and mailing the blankbelow. The members will then be notified when a job is open for him.

Tear Off And Mail To Box 443, Memphis 1, Tenn.

My Name Is _____ My Age Is_____yrs.

My Address Is _____ (ROUTE NUMBER) _____ (BOX NUMBER) _____ (TOWN) _____ (STATE)

I am White——Colored——I will be ready for a job about _____ (DATE)

I will work until _____ (DATE)

Do you want to take your family with you_____. If so, give ages of each member _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Co-ops Open Way To Better Living For People Who Don't Have Much

By A. E. COX

One hundred years ago, it was not an easy matter for small wage earners to organize to better their working and living conditions. In 1843, in the mill town of Rochdale, England, men, women and children were working from six in the morning to eight at night for as little as a penny an hour. There were no unions and the mill owners had refused to increase wages for those who had the courage to ask for higher wages. As a result, there arose from amid the suffering and strife of those conditions, an organization of 28 members determined to help themselves.

It was not an easy thing to do. Their neighbors laughed and jeered at them and the business owners made it difficult for them. Yet, from this humble beginning of the first consumer cooperative store, there has come a movement which has spread to over 40 countries. Over 100 million families are now members of this world wide movement.

American Co-operatives

The growth of the cooperative movement in our own country came somewhat later. Many of the families who came to America from Europe had seen how cooperatives could change the living conditions of the laboring man and his family. Today, there are more than two and a half million owners of cooperatives doing an annual business of more than $750,000,000. For many years now, the farmers of America have been demonstrating the ways in which this economic democracy can make for a richer life. During the first year of the war, over one-sixth of all farm supplies used in our country were purchased through farmer-owned cooperatives.

Practically every phase of business that concerns the farmer can be operated on a cooperative basis. Retail food stores, insurance, gas and oil, farm machinery, fertilizer, seed, medical services, electric power and telephone services are but a few of the farmer-owned cooperatives being operated on a practical and democratic basis.

Co-ops In The South

During the past few years, there has been considerable interest manifested in cooperatives by the members of our union. However, the South, as a whole, has yet to avail itself of the opportunities offered by this type democratic business interprise. It appears that the slow development of the cooperative moyement in the South is due, in part, to two factors. The first handicap has been the failure of our people to understand the way in which cooperatives can solve our economic problems. Another factor has been the loss of ownership of the country in which we live. A sound educational program will enable us to acquire ownership of the materials and services which belong rightfully to those who produce.

Cooperatives are made up of persons organized for the purpose of achieving results which they cannot obtain as individuals. Economic democracy for the South cannot be achieved until we become self-reliant and determined to do things for ourselves. Experience shows that farmers and other workers who have gained any degree of economic freedom have been those who have learned the value of cooperation. We should be aware at all times of the danger resulting from having too many things done for us.

The pit-falls that come due to the permitting of others to do our thinking and planning will lead to economic slavery or keep us in slavery as the case may be.

Meaning Of Cooperation

Cooperation means working together for the mutual benefit of all. Any person who is not willing to study cooperative principles should not join a cooperative. Likewise, a person who can not work for the common good of his neighbors has no place in a cooperative. Success in any organization depends on the amount of energy its members are willing to devote to it. Cooperatives are no exception to the rule. Much has been said about the inability of our people to work out their own problems. It is true that we have been, and are being, denied opportunities of education. Yet, there are unlimited opportunities for us to do something for ourselves. One of the most tragic problems confronting us today is the lack of leadership. All that is needed in many of our communities today is the leadership of one man or woman. Study groups can be organized and out of these can come a full understanding of the cooperative and its place in our economic life. Each local should have a committee on cooperatives and at least one person who is willing to get his neighbors together for the purpose of learning of the plan that will free us from economic bondage.

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More Money In Army Say Southern Boys

Scores of southern boys are reported to be re-enlisting in the army, navy, and marine corps, upon receiving their discharges. There are 4,000 ex-servicemen in the city of Memphis now who are without work and their ranks are growing each day. Former sharecroppers who are offered $50 to $100 per month plus board and keep in the armed services are electing to stay. The wages are much higher for doing Uncle Sam's work than that paid by the boss on the plantation. The average sharecropper family in the South made less than $400 a year during the war.

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Union Members Who Pay Up Get Free Calendar

All members of the Union who pay their 1946 dues are entitled to a free Union calendar. A number of these calendars are still on hand. All members who have not paid their dues for 1946, are urged to see their local Secretary at once. Yearly dues may be sent in to the office if there is no local near you. Membership dues are $4 for the year. Any person who has paid his dues and who has not received a calendar should write to the office at once.

Preacher Writes About Good Life At Delmo Homes

By REV. DAVID S. BURGESS
The Preacher

A month ago, the rate for snapping cotton dropped from $1.50 per 100 pounds to $1.25. The fact that this occurred all over southeast Missouri at the same time proves that the planters are united.

Rumors are heard that cotton planters have held a regional meeting in order to petition the government to set a low cotton chopping wage for this spring all over the South. A ceiling on cotton picking was defeated last fall in Missouri but the planters are now back at their old game of trying to cut wages.

Better Homes

The residents of the Delmo Labor Homes are waiting for the new sales contract but the delay has not kept them from making improvements on their houses. Many have painted, papered, or varnished the inside of their homes. W. J. Parker of East Prairie was the first "garden breaker." Nearly all expect to raise bumper gardens this year. Tom Cave of East Prairie was the first to build a porch on his house. Residents at Lilbourn and Wardell are thinking about purchasing two dwellings and converting them into meeting halls. A ladies club has been formed at the South Lilbourn project. The Wyatt project has had a "clean up day." Funds were raised at Morehouse and East Prairie to operate the community wash houses. Kennett, Lilbourn, and Wyatt are following suit.

Circle City

Tired of the name, "The Project," residents of the Delmo Homes near Kennett, have changed the name of their village to Circle City. Other units may also select new names.

Co-Ops Start

Some of the people feel that a co-operative store is needed on each project. The store would be owned and operated by the residents for their own benefit. "Maybe," suggested one person, "we had better start off with a buying club first and then bite off a bigger hunk—a co-op store later." Talmus Barker at Wardell has started the ball rolling by arranging to buy paint for all the residents in wholesale lots.

Union Activities

The Union is planning to hold an educational institute early this spring for all leaders in southeast Missouri. The time and place will be announced later. The Victory Rally for all Delmo Labor Homes residents and Union members may also be held soon.

Knowing of the lack of employment in southeast Missouri, project residents are looking forward to the opportunity of getting jobs through the Union. Bill Johnson of Wardell, Mo., can give full information about the jobs open to Union members in New Jersey canneries this summer. Workers can also register for jobs by writing the Union office in Memphis.

Congressman Zimmerman will probably be running again for Congress this year. All farm laborers in southeast Missouri, men and women, should register and be ready to vote. As a preacher, I remind them to vote and to vote for the best man on the ballot.

American labor won't let them block the way!

Why Do They Hate When It Is Easier To Live In Peace?

By EDWIN R. EMBREE
President, Julius Rosenwald Fund

When a Japanese-American was brought into a Chicago office, a Negro stenographer sneered, "I'll not work with any yellow belly," and stalked out—haughty as any Nordic. Cults of Negroes in many cities gleefully engage in anti-Semitism. At the same time Jewish businessmen all too frequently exploit Negroes, and Jewish families along with their Gentile neighbors give support to the same kind of ghetto walls in America that they fled from in Europe. Catholics often show the very same intolerance to other Christians that they complain of when it is directed against them. Polish Catholics led by their priests fought Negro admission to the homes built for them by the Federal government in Detroit. In California, Negroes, Mexicans, and Japanese-Americans have vied in looking down on one another.

All of this is crazy.

A Negro fascist is just as ugly as a white fascist. Intolerance is just as evil in a Catholic as in a Baptist. We are not going to get democracy in America so long as each group strives for special advantages for itself. We are not going to break the tough walls of segregation and discrimination unless all groups unite in behalf of full participation in all phases of American life by all the people.

Liberals have lost their battles, time out of mind, because we fought among ourselves rather than against the common enemy. All of us in America—Negroes, whites, Jews, Japanese-Americans, Catholics, Protestants, all of us—can build a society of freedom and security if we stand together. If any of us suffer, we all suffer.

This idea was put forcibly and beautifully by John Dunno three hundred years ago. With a slight emendation of mine, one of his great poems ends:

"No man is an island, entire of itself,
Each is a piece of a continent, a part of the main.
If the bell tolls the knell of any man
(or any group of men),
Never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee."

Planter Glad

The following statement has been made by a liberal planter in southeast Missouri. "Many planters in southeast Missouri opposed the Delmo residents in their fight to save their homes. I'm glad the working folks won the fight. If they had lost, there would have been a local scandal which could have been blamed on the Truman administration. The roadside demonstration of 1939 would not have compared with what would have happened if the residents had lost.

Blessed Thoughts

In a day when thousands of families of veterans of World War II are homeless, real estate prices are booming, and starvation is world wide—very few men speak for the farm worker in Washington. The Delmo people are grateful to the Lord that He has blessed them with the opportunity to own a little plot of ground, a little house, and a portion of genuine independence. The preacher hopes that somehow the independence, the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech and assembly, and the democratic way of life in the Delmo Labor Homes may be an example and an inspiration to all farm workers who are now without hope for a better day.

Governor Laney Won't Let Tee Davis Out

New York City.—Governor Ben Laney of Arkansas refused a Christmas pardon to Tee Davis, Negro tenant farmer of Edmondson, Ark., serving 10 years for shooting a white sheriff who tried to break into his home without a warrant while searching for thieves reported in the neighborhood.

Writing to Workers Defense League chairman, Rev. Aron S. Gilmartin, the governor said: "My decision is that I do not feel justified in granting executive clemency at this time."

In his plea to the Governor, Gilmartin had pointed out that the sheriff was unhurt, that Davis had acted in self-defense, and that the state law makes clear the right of a person to prevent another from entering his home forcibly.

Releasing the reply from Gov. Laney, WDL national secretary Morris Milgram stated: "For nearly three years Tee Davis, innocent of any crime, has been detained in an Arkansas prison camp, where forced labor earns high profits that help keep Arkansas tax rates down.

"Tee Davis needs the help of every person who believes in equal justice. Write to Gov. Ben Laney at Little Rock, Ark., urging that he use his power to end this injustice."

Davis, a member of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, whose name is now the National Farm Labor Union, has long been a militant trade unionist.

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Here's Facts On Old-Age Payments

There is no old age pension for farm people in the United States. There is Old Age Assistance in all states which is given to people who are past 65 years of age, and who are unable to work, and who have no other means of support. This amounts to as little as $7 a month in some states. The old age assistance benefits are less than $15 a month in most southern states.

To get old age assistance, a person must be past 65, unable to work and have no other means of support. Applications must be made in the office of the county welfare director in the county in which the person lives. The person must be able to prove his or her age. A family Bible record of birth is usually accepted.

It has been found that a good way for an old person to get this so called pension, is to make an application and then go back each week to the office of the county welfare director to ask about the "pension." Old people who have applied should keep going to the office every week, no matter what the welfare director tells them. If they show that they need the pension and must have it, they will get consideration.

Another way to get old age assistance is to get some prominent citizen of the county to speak to the county welfare director.

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PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR 1946 NOW.

Negro Citizens Against Injustice In Mississippi

Mississippians are in revolt against taxation without representation. One hundred leading Negro citizens of the state met in Jackson, February 15th. to adopt a strong resolution stating that Mississippi spends only one tenth of its funds for the education of Negroes, yet it taxes both Negroes and whites equally. The committee of 100 called for a pro rata share of educational funds appropriated by the state to be devoted to Negro education. They demanded a state university, a medical college, and elementary and high schools with standards equal to those maintained for the whites.

The committee backed up its resolution with a threat to take the complaint to the courts unless the state legislature now in session acts on their demands.

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Workers From All Over World Meeting

The National Farm Labor Union has received a letter from Mr. Joseph F. Duncan, President of the International Land Workers Federation, about a Congress to be held in London on April 10th. and 11th. Mr. Duncan is also an official of the Scottish Farm Servants Section of the Transport and General Workers Union, and his headquarters are in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Mr. Duncan writes that contact has been re-established with farm labor unions in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Austria, England, Scotland, France, Palestine, and Finland.

The last meeting of the International Land Workers Federation was held in Amsterdam, Holland, in July of 1938. The Federation was formed in 1921 as a part of the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The London Congress meeting this April will consider what shall be done about affiliation with the World Congress of Trade Unions which was set up last year. Trade unions of Great Britain, France, and Russia, set up the World Federation. The C.I.O. represented American workers. The A. F. of L. refused to take part, holding that Russian unions were not free trade unions but a part of the Russian Government.

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Farm Labor News

Published monthly by the National Farm Labor Union (STFU), Memphis, Tennessee. The price of each copy is 3¢.

The subscription rate is 25¢ per year. Bundles of 10 or more copies to agents at 1¢ each.

The Constitution of the Union provides that 25¢ of each member's yearly dues shall be set aside to pay for this monthly paper.

All non members who make contributions of $1 or more will receive this paper.

25¢ of each individual contribution is allocated to pay for a year's subscription.

Application for entry as second class mail is pending.

Too Much Cotton – But None To Wear

There's too much cotton in the warehouses, but many folks don't have enough clothes to cover themselves. There's something wrong when the warehouses are piled high with cotton and the people who chop and pick it don't get enough to buy clothes.

The price of cotton is now higher than at any time in the past 22 years. It is over 26¢ a pound. The higher it goes, the sicker King Cotton and his slaves are getting. There are still 22 million bales of cotton in the warehouses of the world. Plans are under way to grow a 12 million bale crop in 1946. A man cannot buy a cotton shirt or a pair of overalls anywhere. All kinds of cotton goods are needed. According to some people, the main reason for this condition is that the price of cotton is up too high to be sold.

For three years, in spite of the need for cotton in warfare, the number of bales used by the mills has fallen. Rayons and other substitute fibers are taking over the American market. The South had already lost the world market before the war. The price of cotton on the world market, even with the greatest need in the history of the world, is only 15¢ a pound.

Senator John Bankhead of Alabama, and the other cotton senators and congressmen are responsible for the shortage of cotton goods while there are 22 million bales in storage. They have passed laws to appropriate money to raise the price of cotton and to have the government buy cotton and hold it off the market.

The only hope being held out to save King Cotton and his slaves is that the U. S. Government is trying to work out an agreement with other cotton countries to limit the acreage and set prices.

Charging Too Much Interest Is Usury

Usury is an old word. It is in the Bible. It means charging more than the lawful rate of interest. In the state of Arkansas, it is legal for 10 per cent interest per year to be charged if the rate is agreed to by parties to a contract.

However, the custom in the plantation country is for 10¢ on the dollar to be charged as interest, regardless of the time the money or goods is used. To charge 10¢ on the dollar for 5 months or even 1 month, is usury.

The law says that a lender who charges or accepts more than 10 per cent interest per year, is guilty of usury. The Arkansas law, Section 9401, Pope's Digest, reads as follows: "All contracts for a greater rate of interest than 10 per centum per annum shall be void as to principal and interest and the General Assembly shall prohibit the same by law."

Another section makes a mortgage which is taken to secure payment of a contract in which usurious interest is charged, void.

The charging of high interest under cover of charges for supervision of farming, etc., may also be classed as usury.

All persons who have statements of account or other evidence showing interest rates above 10 per cent a year should send their papers in to the office for examination. It may be that the Union can recover money for members who have been defrauded by usury.

Crop Insurance Drive Started

Last year, about a third of the cotton crops in the South were insured. A drive is being put on by the Government to get all cotton farmers, land owners, tenants, and sharecroppers, to insure their cotton in 1946.

Any tenant or sharecropper can insure his share of the cotton crop even if the land owner does not want to insure his share.

The cost of insuring cotton is 15 pounds of lint per acre. When the government insurance is taken out, the farmer is insured against loss on account of drought, flood, hail, wind, frost, winter kill, lightening, fire, excessive rain, snow, wildlife, hurricane, tornado, insect infestation (boll weevil), and plant disease.

The crop is insured from the time it is planted until it is picked. In case of loss, the Government will pay insurance on 75% of the average 5 year yield per acre. If there is a crop failure no one can collect insurance premiums but the person who has his crop insured. Farmers may apply for crop insurance at the County AAA Office or to any crop insurance agent.

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Millions May Go On Relief In The South

In a speech to the Arkansas Agricultural Council on February 18th., Tom Linder, Commissioner of Agriculture for Georgia, stated that 5 million southern farm laborers will have to be put on relief in the next few years.

Linder said that he knew of no other solution for two thirds of the eight million farm laborers who will be displaced as a result of mechanization of cotton farming in the South.

MORE WHO HAVE FAITH GIVE TO THE FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

Since February the Four Freedoms Fund has been increased by a few dollars. New contributions have been made by the following people:

William Brown, Shaw, Miss.
John Collins, Shaw Miss.
F. C. Cooper, Boyle, Miss.
Columbus Davis, Dumas, Ark.
James F. Dawson, Forrest City, Ark.
Maggie L. Dawson, Forrest City, Ark.
Pon D. Dawson, Forrest City, Ark.
Willie B. Dawson, Forrest City, Ark.
W. H. Green, Gould, Ark.
Madena Harrell, Forrest City, Ark.
Willie Hunt, Boyle, Miss.
William Johnson, Shaw, Miss.
Mordeciah Jones, Gould, Ark.
Roscoe Jones, Grady, Ark.
Albert Joze, Boyle, Miss.
Eli Kindle, Dumas, Ark.
Willie Manuel, Gould, Ark.
Josiah Mathew, Shaw, Miss.
Albert Miller, Shaw, Miss.
Pearl Morris, Gould, Ark.
New Mt. Zion Local, Forrest City, Ark.
W. R. Parcells, Muskogee, Okla.
A. L. Porter, Spruce Pine, Ala.
Pollard Randolf, Gould, Ark.
W. H. Shaw, McClelland, Ark.
Sullivan Swopes, Haynes, Ark.
Mose Walker, Boyle, Miss.
Alice Woods, Gould, Ark.
Cato Wyne, Forrest City, Ark.

However, if we are to raise enough money to set up a lobby for farm labor in Washington, contributions will have to come in faster than at present.

If the extension of the Four Freedoms to you is worth $100—then give that much. If freedom is worth only 25¢—then give that much to the fund. It is up to you. Give what you can—do something for yourself.

Each person who gives to the Four Freedom Fund gets a badge to wear. Local secretaries will give you a receipt for your money and send it in to the office for you. Any member or reader of this paper may send their money direct to the National Office. You may use the blank below.

FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

I WILL GIVE $_____now to the Four Freedoms Fund, and I will give

$_____more to the Four Freedoms Fund by_____(MONTH)_____(DAY)_____194—

My name is _____

I get my mail at _____(ROUTE BOX) _____(TOWN) _____(STATE)

I am a member of _____Local No. _____

I am not a member, but I want to help. ( ) Check X.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO BOX 443, MEMPHIS, TENN.